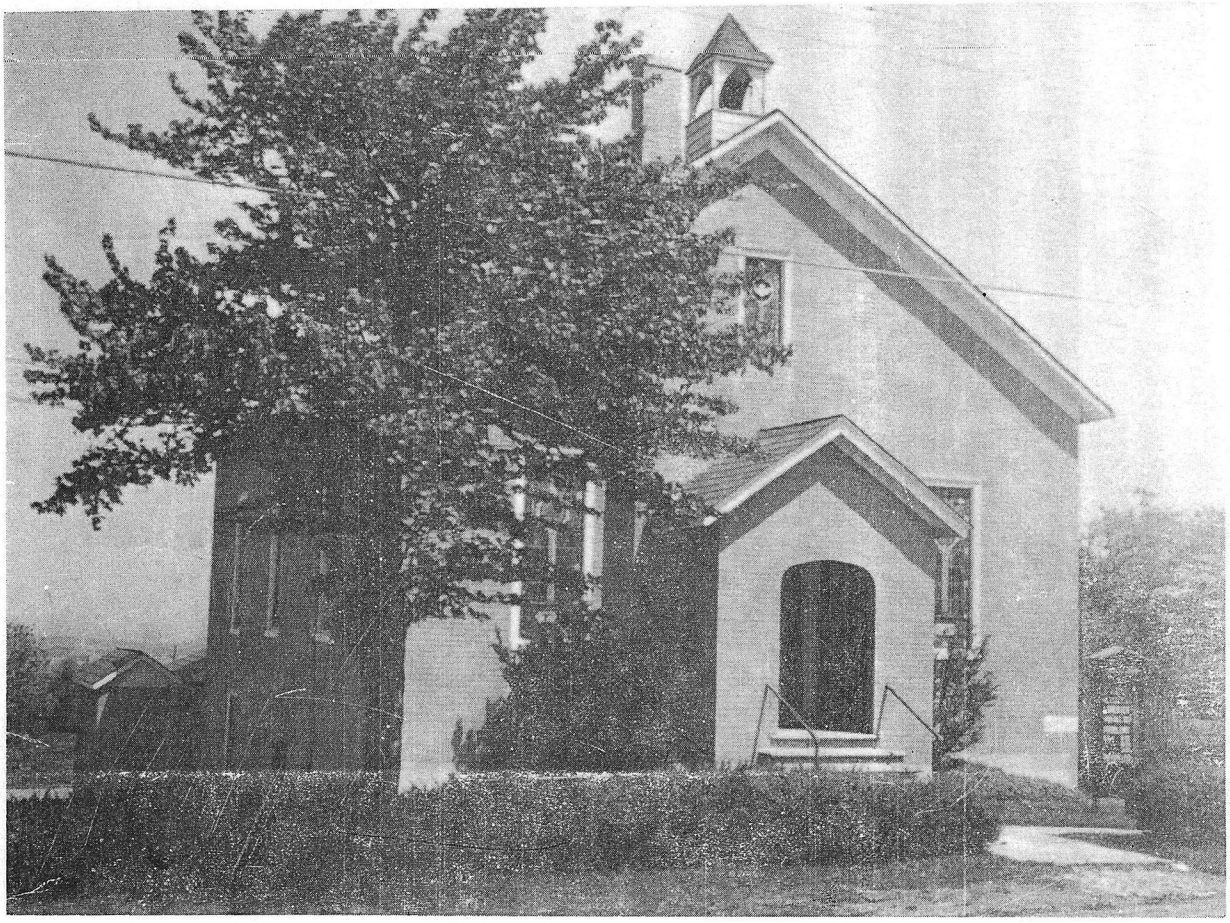
125th Anniversary
Christ Evan. Cong. Church

(BLUE CHURCH)

Williams Township



Sunday, April 26th, 1964

CHURCH OFFICERS

TRUSTEES

Mr. Walter Stackhouse
Mr. Steward Behn, Sr.
Mr. Earl Behn
Mrs. Edith Ealer
Mr. John Goodyear

STEWARDS

Mrs. Mary Goodyear
Mrs. Elizabeth Frankenfield
Mrs. Dorothy Torquati
Mr. James Stackhouse
Mr. Richard Richards

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SUNDAY SCHOOL OFFICERS

Superintendent ---------- James Stackhouse
Assistant Superintendent ---------- Steward Behn, Sr.
Treasurer ---------- Mrs. Richard Richards
Secretary ---------- Miss Linda Richards
Assistant Secretary ---------- Mr. Jay Brotzman
Pianist ---------- Jacqueline Stackhouse
Assistant Pianist ---------- Eileen Goodyear
Cradle Roll ---------- Edith Ealer
Primary Room Supt. ---------- Elizabeth Frankenfield
Pianist ---------- Elizabeth Frankenfield
Asst. Pianist ---------- Nancy Mann

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ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE

Mr. Steward Behn, Sr.
Mr. Walter Stackhouse
Miss Berna Seifert
Rev. John Kohl

In Memoriam

of those who have gone to be with the Lord
in the past twenty-five years

Edith Amig
Forrest Brotzman
Meda Frankenfield
F. W. Frankenfield
Mr. Charles Frankenfield
W. F. Frankenfield
Mrs. Hattie Felker
John P. Hahn
Mrs. John P. Hahn
Frank Lee, Sr.
Mrs. Ed Hank
Miss Ida Moser
Frank Nolf
Mr. Arthur Parker
Mrs. Mary Rasely
Mr. James Rasely
Rev. E. L. Ramer
Mrs. E. L. Ramer
Mr. Ralph Seifert
Mrs. Jessie Salisbury

DEDICATED

TO

ALL THE MEMBERS OF THE BLUE CHURCH — PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE — WHO GIVE THEIR TIME, TALENTS, AND LIVES FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT AND PERPETUATION OF THIS LORD'S HOUSE.

CHRIST EVANGELICAL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
("THE BLUE CHURCH")

Williams Township, Pennsylvania

To all those who worship with us during this anniversary celebration, we extend a hearty welcome. We hope that your presence here might instill in your heart and life a feeling of the the warmth, fellowship, and joy which inhabits the Blue Church. Our prayer is that God's love may indwell your heart, and as you depart from these worship services, that that love will be transmitted to all those with whom you come in contact.

John Kohl, *Pastor*

"For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake."

II Corinthians 4:5

ONE HUNDRED TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY SERVICE

SUNDAY, APRIL 26th — 10:40 A.M.

Organ Prelude ---------- Jacqueline Stackhouse

Call to Worship ---------- Rev. John Kohl

*Gloria Patri No. 397

*Invocation ---------- Rev. John Kohl

Hymn No. 402—"O Worship the Lord"

Scripture Lesson ---------- Rev. E. D. Ehrig

*Prayer Hymn No. 300—"Sweet Hour of Prayer"

*Prayer ---------- Rev. E. D. Ehrig

Meditation (seated)

Announcements ---------- Rev. John Kohl

Presentation of Offerings

*Response No. 398—"We give thee but thine own"

Choir, Anthem—"Come and Dine" ---------- *C. C. Widmeyer*

Anniversary Message ---------- Rev. E. D. Ehrig

Communion Service

*Closing Hymn No. 140—"Am I a Soldier of the Cross"

*Benediction ---------- Rev. John Kohl

*Three-fold Amen

*Silent Meditation

The Rev. E. D. Ehrig is presently serving as the District Superintendent of the Eastern District, East Pennsylvania Conference of our Church. It is indeed a privilege to welcome him to our presence for this Anniversary celebration. We pray that the Lord will richly bless his efforts with us throughout this day.

ONE HUNDRED TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY SERVICE

SUNDAY, APRIL 26th — 2:30 P.M.

Organ Prelude ---------- Jacqueline Stackhouse

Welcome by the Pastor ---------- Rev. John Kohl

*Opening Hymn No. 161—"Rise Up O Men Of God"

*Prayer ---------- Rev. C. W. Barner

Hymn No. 511—"When We All Get To Heaven"

Hymn No. 352—"Is It The Crowning Day"

Scripture Lesson ---------- Rev. H. D. Wittmaier

Accordion Selection ---------- Mr. Frank Stackhouse

*Prayer Hymn No. 321—"Tis So Sweet To Trust In Jesus"

*Prayer ---------- Rev. E. D. Ehrig

Meditation (seated)

Announcements ---------- Rev. John Kohl

Presentation of Offerings

*Response No. 398

Organ Selection ---------- Timothy Barner

Choir, Anthem—"It May Be Today" ---------- *B. B. Bixler*

Anniversary Message ---------- Rev. H. D. Wittmaier

*Closing Hymn No. 500—"Sweeter As The Years Go By"

*Benediction ---------- Rev. C. W. Barner

*Three-fold Amen

*Silent Meditation

We are happy to have the Rev. H. D. Wittmaier with us as our speaker of the afternoon. He served the Blue Church from the year 1933-34. He has served other charges at Reamstown, Allentown Zion, Allentown Boulevard, Reading Grace, Reading First, and is presently serving as the pastor of our Church at Plymouth Meeting. We are happy to have Rev. Wittmaier with us, and pray that his ministry with us will be a rewarding one.

THE HISTORY OF THE BLUE CHURCH

Early in the nineteenth century, Jacob Albright and sixteen laymen formed an organization known as the Evangelical Association. The desire of this organization was to bring the Gospel to the German speaking people in their native tongue. The Association sent out preachers with the task of expounding the Scriptures and proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ. These men were called Circuit Riders and formed groups of converts into classes to pray until the Circuit Rider could come to them again to preach.

In the year 1839, John Deemer and his wife deeded to the "Evangelical Association and Christian Society of Williams Township" a plot of land, through its Trustees Jacob Bond and Jacob Best. Part of the present cemetery occupies some of that land today. A Sanctuary was built in the same year on that plot of ground, and Bishop Seybert, who was traveling in this locality at that time, dedicated that Church.

This congregation grew in spirit and body, until a larger Church was needed in the year 1870. (The records from 1839 to 1870 are not available for the names of leaders and ministers).

In the year 1870, under the leadership of Rev. Hambright, William Hahn, Henry Wolf. Thomas Yeisley, Samuel Kline, Isaac Yeisley, Joseph Brotzman, Rueben Richards, and Isaac Deemer, it was decided to build a new House of Worship.

The Union Church of the Evangelical Association of North America, in the year 1871, through its trustees Isaac Yeisley, Thomas R. Yeisley and Isaac Deemer purchased the property on which the present Church stands from Henry Wolf and his wife. In the same year the present Church was erected facing the "Old Philadelphia Road". The members and friends erected a new Church, free of debt, and dedicated it through Bishop J. J. Esher. The outside of the Church was finished in plaster, and something in the plaster gave it a blue appearance. Thus the name, "The Blue Church".

It is interesting to note that during the demolition of the pulpit platform in 1937, the late Charles H. Frankenfield found a piece of pine board nailed to a joist of the platform on which appeared the date Nov. 2, 1871, and the names of Israel Diehl, Clayton Reigel, Simon Haney, and Edwin Sloyer.

In the year 1880, the Trustees of the "Union Church of the Evangelical Association of Williams Township" purchased a plot of land from Thomas F. Yeisley in order to increase the size of the cemetery to its present size.

Rev. Rineck served the Church from 1880 to 1883. He urged good music for better worship, and so an organ was purchased in 1880. In that year Mrs. John P. Hahn was elected organist. a position she held for 59 years. It was during Rev. Rineck's ministry that the corner stone was recut to Christ United Evangelical Church. It was also during this period that the

younger preachers began to preach in English, and for several years the German and English preachers alternated.

About this time D. F. Kostenbader felt the leading of the Lord to preach the Gospel, and was licensed by an Annual Conference in Bangor in 1887. He was ordained Deacon in 1891, an Elder in 1894. In the year 1909, another young man, C. P. Kichline, was licensed by the Annual Conference. Rev. Kichline was the father-in-law of our present Bishop, the Rev. Dr. H. H. Scanlin.

In the year 1911, Elizabeth Seip deeded one acre of land adjacent to the property obtained in 1871. This property was deeded to Christ Evangelical Church of Williams Township through its trustees Jacob Ehman, Wm. Snyder, and John P. Hahn.

Pastors who have served the Church since 1870 were: Hambright, Breyfogle, Rineck, Dissinger, Krupp, Wm. Stauffer, F. Stauffer, Freed, Steel, Trauger, Grass, Lichty, Kutz, Reinbold, Harne, Debinder, Geiske, Bradberry, Todd, McFall, Keck, and Hilligass. Those who have served in the past thirty years are: H. D. Wittmaier (1933-4), H. A. Smith (1934-40), R. W. Miller (1940-42), G. R. Booth (1942-44), R. D. Miles (1944-5), C. W. Barner (1945-7), V. A. DeRoner (1947-8), R. L. Kramer (1948-50), E. L. Ramer (1950-4), J. B. Ritter (1945-55), R. F. Christman (1955-6), J. A. Smith (1956-7), R. E. Rhoads (1957-62), and the present pastor, J. P. Kohl (1962-4).

With reverence, respect, and great pride, we look to the past; with hope, we press onward in the future.

". . . this one thing I do,
forgetting those things which
are behind, and reaching forth
unto those things which are
before, I press toward the mark
for the prize of the high
calling of God in Christ Jesus."

Philippians 3:13-14

PASTORS WHO HAVE SERVED THE BLUE CHURCH

From 1870 to the Present

The Reverends:

Hambright	Kutz	R. W. Miller
Breyfogle	Reinhold	G. R. Booth
Reneck	Harne	R. D. Miles
Dissinger	Debiner	C. W. Barner
Krupp	Geiske	V. A. DeRoner
Wm. Stauffer	Bradberry	R. L. Kramer
F. Stauffer	Todd	E. L. Ramer
Freed	McFall	J. B. Ritter
Steel	Keck	R. F. Christman
Trauger	Hilligass	J. A. Smith
Grass	H. D. Wittmaier	R. E. Rhoads
Lichty	H. A. Smith	J. P. Kohl